Special Study Targeting False Alarms

False alarms hinder the fire service on a daily basis. With the increase of false alarms throughout Delaware the State Fire Marshal's Office and the State Fire Prevention Commission are utilizing DFIRS data to analyze and document the increasing problem of false alarms within the State.

When documenting false alarm incidents please keep in mind the following helpful tips:

Codes 711 to 715 are for malicious, mischievous false alarms. For example, if someone maliciously pulls a fire alarm box.

Codes 731 to 736 are for system or detector malfunctions and improper performance of fire alarm systems not a result of a proper system response to environmental stimuli such as smoke or high heat conditions. Commonly used codes within this category are:

> 731 – Sprinkler activated due to the failure or malfunction of the sprinkler system. Includes any failure of sprinkler equipment that leads to sprinkler activation with no fire present.
> 733 - Smoke detector activated due to a malfunction.

Codes 741 to 746 are for unintentional system/detector operation with no fire present. This includes tripping an interior device accidentally. Some commonly used codes within this category are:

> 741 – Sprinkler activation, no fire – unintentional Includes testing the sprinkler system without fire department notification.
> 744 – Detector activation, no fire – unintentional, a result of a proper system response to environmental stimuli such as smoke or high heat conditions (ie: cooking). Included is testing the sprinkler system without fire department notification.

As always if you have questions regarding incident coding please do not hesitate to contact Program Manager, Crystal Beach for assistance.

User Questions

A commonly asked question is, **"How do I record a standby at another station?"**

Answer:

- Record the incident as incident type 571 – cover assignment, assist other fire agency such as standby at a fire station or move-up.
- Indicate aid given and the department FDID number that the cover assignment is being performed for.
- Record property use as code 888 – fire station if cover assignment was performed at the actual station. If cover assignment was performed at another type of location indicate the proper property use.

Program Status

The DFIRS program had another successful month in March. The current DFIRS participation rate for the state is at 54% and gaining. April's program goal is to increase participation to the 60% level.

If your department is not participating in the DFIRS program please contact Program Manager, Crystal Beach for assistance.

Congratulations!
The following departments are active electronic DFIRS participants:

1. Indian River Volunteer Fire Co
2. Lewes Fire Department Inc
3. Bethany Beach Fire Co
4. Little Creek Volunteer Fire Co
5. Elsmere Fire Co #1 Inc
6. Citizen's Hose Co #1 Inc
7. Volunteer Hose Co
8. Dover Robbins Hose Co #1 Inc
9. Cheswold Volunteer Fire Co
10. Carlisle Fire Co Inc

**USFA ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HELPLINE HOURS**
**More than 8,500 Fire Departments Have Registered
and Begun Filling Out Grant Application**

WASHINGTON - The Federal Emergency Management Agency's United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced today that the hours of its toll-free Helpline have been extended to include Sundays. In addition to the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday, fire department representatives can also contact the Helpline on Sundays from 12 p.m. until 6 p.m. (EST). The toll-free number is **(866) 274-0960**.

This expansion is in response to the overwhelming interest USFA has received in the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Some fire departments experienced difficulties accessing the on-line application during the first few days. USFA estimates that 90-95 percent of applicants have been able to register without any problems, but the agency is concerned about the 5-10 percent who have had trouble. USFA has resolved some minor technical issues, and is working with individual applicants to find solutions to each registration problem.

In the first week of applications being available, more than 9,700 fire departments have registered and begun filling out the application form online. As of March 7, over 100 completed applications have been received and the Helpline has assisted more than 2,500 callers. The Help-line is staffed by both computer specialists and program staff to answer any questions applicants may have.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program has been provided with $360 million this year for the grants to local fire departments. The process is a competitive one. The purpose of the program is to award one-year grants directly to fire departments of a state to enhance their abilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. This program seeks to assist departments that lack the basic tools and resources necessary to protect the health and safety of the public and their firefighting personnel.

11. Dagsboro Fire Co
12. Frankford Volunteer Fire Co
13. Selbyville Volunteer Fire Co
14. Seaford Volunteer Fire Dept Inc
15. Roxana Volunteer Fire Co
16. Farmington Fire Co
17. Clayton Fire Co #1 Inc
18. Felton Community Fire Co
19. Wilmington Fire Dept
20. Greenwood Volunteer Fire Co
21. Camden-Wyoming Fire Co Inc
22. Magnolia Volunteer Fire Co Inc
23. Bowers Fire Co
24. Aetna Hose Hook & Ladder Co
25. Laurel Fire Dept Inc
26. Millville Volunteer Fire Co
27. Leipsic Volunteer Fire Co
28. Five Points Fire Co
29. Houston Volunteer Fire Co
30. Rehoboth Beach Vol Fire Co
31. Delmar Fire Dept Inc
32. Georgetown Fire Co Inc
33. Ellendale Volunteer Fire Co

Departments in bold indicate participation since last published newsletter.

For more information regarding the Delaware Fire IncidentReporting System (DFIRS), please contact Crystal Beach at 302-739-5665 or cbeach@state.de.us

PLEASE POST FOR ALL DEPARTMENT MEMBERS